Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of executing queries on a data repository, the method comprising:

receiving a query, adapted for execution on a data set in the data repository;

defining a sample of the data set, [[wherein]] the sample [[is]] being a subset of the data set;

executing the query on the sample;

generating an estimate of a result of the execution of the query, the estimate based on the execution of the query on the sample; [[and]]

providing the estimate to a user interface;

executing the query on another subset of the data set;

generating an updated estimate of the result of the execution of the query based on the execution of the query on the another subset; and

providing the updated estimate to the user interface.

2. (Original) A method of executing a query in accordance with claim 1, wherein the query includes criteria to provide the result of the execution of the query.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of executing a query in accordance with claim 1, wherein providing the estimate comprises displaying a representation of the estimate and results matching the query.

4. (Original) A method of executing a query in accordance with claim 1, the method further comprising:

defining an Nth sample of the data set, wherein the Nth sample is larger than an (N - 1) th sample;

executing the query on the Nth sample;

generating an Nth estimate of the result based on the execution of the query on the Nth sample; and

providing the Nth estimate to a user interface.

5. (Original) A method of executing a query in accordance with claim 4, wherein the Nth sample of the data set is defined if the query is neither modified nor canceled after a preset time.

6. (Original) A method of executing a query in accordance with claim 4, wherein the Nth sample is defined to be larger than the (N - 1) th sample by a factor Y.

7. (Original) A method of executing a query in accordance with claim 4, the method further comprising:

if the Nth sample is greater than or equal to a size Z,

executing the query on the data set to generate the result, and

providing the result to the user interface.

8. (Currently Amended) An information management system, the system comprising:

a data repository, wherein the data repository is configured to store a data set; and

a program for executing queries on the data repository, wherein the program is operative to:

receive a query, adapted for execution on a data set in the data repository;

define a sample of the data set, [[wherein]] the sample [[is]] being a subset of the data set;

execute the query on the sample;

generate an estimate of a result of the execution of the query, the estimate based on the execution of the query on the sample; [[and]]

provide the estimate to a user interface;

execute the query on another subset of the data set;

generate an updated estimate of the result of the execution of the query based on the execution of the query on the another subset; and

provide the updated estimate to the user interface.

9. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the query includes criteria to provide the result of the execution of the query.

10. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the operation of providing the estimate of the result comprises displaying a representation of the estimate.

11. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the program is further operative to:

define an Nth sample of the data set, wherein the Nth sample is larger than an (N – 1) th sample;

execute the query on the Nth sample;

generate an Nth estimate of the result based on the query of the Nth sample; and

provide the Nth estimate to a user interface.

12. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the Nth sample of the data set is defined if the query is neither modified nor canceled after a preset time.

13. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the Nth sample is defined to be larger than the (N – 1) th sample by a factor Y.

14. (Original) An information management system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the program is further operative to:

if the Nth sample is greater than or equal to a size Z,

execute the query on the data set to generate the result, and

provide the result of the query execution to the user interface.

15. (New) A method of executing a query in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:

continually performing the query on further subsets of data until the query has been executed on a threshold amount of the data set; and

continually providing an updated estimate to the user interface.

16. (New) A method of executing a query in accordance with claim 15 further comprising:

performing the query on the entire data set in response to reaching the threshold.

17. (New) A method of executing a query in accordance with claim 1, wherein the data set comprises multi-dimensional business data structured for online analytical processing queries.

18. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a query, adapted for execution on a data set in a data repository, the data set comprising business data structured for online analytical processing queries;

executing the query on a first subset of the data set;

generating an estimate of a number of results matching the query, the estimate based on the executing the query on the first subset;

providing the estimate to a user interface in coordination with the estimate being generated;

continually executing the query on another subset of the data set until a threshold condition is met;

generating updated estimates of a number of results matching the query in coordination with each execution on the query, the updated estimates based on the continually executing the query; and

providing the updated estimates to the user interface in coordination with each of the updated estimates being generated.